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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Reeve, L.E. et al.	Atty. Docket No.: <u>PMX-003.02</u>
Serial No.: 10/811,239	Examiner: Therkorn, E.G.
Filing Date: March 26, 2004	Group Art Unit: 1723
Title: <i>Purified Polyoxyalkylene Block Copolymers</i>	

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that the instant "*Response to Notice of Incomplete Reply*" is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail on the date set forth below in a postage-prepaid envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

March 20, 2006

By:

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

Shirine Darvish

Response to Notice of Incomplete Reply

Dear Examiner Therkorn:

In response to the outstanding Notice of Incomplete Reply in the above-identified application, mailed February 28, 2006, the Applicants respectfully confirm their election of **Group II**, claims 12-19, drawn to a material wherein the viscosity of an aqueous solution increases by at least a factor of two over a temperature range of about 2 C, classified in class 264, subclass 345.

Joinder of Groups

The Applicants respectfully maintain that simultaneous examination of **Group II** and **Group III** (claim 20 to the extent it relates to kits comprising a copolymer of claim 12) would not place an undue burden on the Examiner. *See* MPEP § 803 ("If the search

and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the [E]xaminer must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.”). Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner modify the Restriction Requirement, examining in the instant application claims 12-19 and claim 20 (to the extent it relates to kits comprising a copolymer of claim 12).

Election of Species for Search Purposes

The Applicants respectfully elect **poloxamer 407** as the Species for search purposes. With respect to Group II, claims 12-17 read on the elected species. Should the Examiner accept the Applicants’ proposal to join Groups II and III: With respect to Group III, claim 20 reads on the elected species.

Of course, the elections of Species made herein are solely for search purposes. The Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute species not elected herein in other patent applications claiming the benefit of the filing date of this application. Furthermore, the Applicants understand that upon allowance of a generic claim, they will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim. See 37 CFR 1.141.

Fees

The Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Response. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with the filing of this Response to our Deposit Account, **No. 06-1448, reference PMX-003.02.**

Conclusion

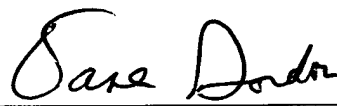
The Applicants believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' Attorney would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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